

Canada in 1948. A gifted musician, Yank enjoyed 27 years in the music industry as a singer, composer, arranger and producer. His career began in 1965 as the lead singer of the Footprints, singing *Never Say Die* and in 1967, he became the lead singer of the touring Kingsmen, best known for *Louie, Louie*. He has enjoyed success in the field of advertising jingles including Kellogg's Raisin Bran, Dr. Pepper, Kodak, Red Lobster and General Motors.

Barry pioneered the first quadraphonic album—now known as surround sound—along with Robert Lifton and Ben Lanzarone at Regent Sound Studios in New York in 1970. In 1971, he recorded the rock opera "The Diary of Mr. Gray", which put him on the cover of many trade magazines and produced the Broadway show "Let My People Come" at the Imperial Theater in 1979. He has also appeared on the *The Mike Douglas Show*, *The Merv Griffin Show*, *The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour* and *The Sally Jessy Raphael Show*. And in 1975, Yank was commissioned by the White House to write and compose "Welcome Home P.O.W.s".

In 1990, Yank developed Vitapro, a dehydrated soy-based meat-replacement product. While traveling on business, Yank witnessed desperate living conditions that touched his heart. He started donating some of his food product to various charities and NGOs in Canada and the U.S. Soon Yank's dear friend Muhammad Ali joined Global Village Champions and they brought food, medical supplies, clothing and educational tools to refugee camps, orphanages and areas stricken by disaster all over the world.

In 1995 Yank Barry founded the Global Village Champions Foundation which has been used as a vehicle through which Yank, Muhammad Ali, Evander Holyfield and numerous other World Class Champions have provided nearly a billion meals to people in need across the globe. Celine Dion, Michael Jordan, Buzz Aldrin, King Mohammed VI of Morocco and Dr. Michael Nobel are only a few of the exceptional people who have joined Yank as he strives for "A Day Without Hunger" on a global scale.

As a result of his ongoing Fight Against Hunger, Mr. Yank Barry has received nearly two dozen awards since 1995 including the India Humanitarian Service Award 2008, Bahamian Red Cross Humanitarian Award, the Cote D'Ivoire Humanitarian Peace award and the Juarez, Mexico Hands of Love and Hope Award for his determined efforts to deliver food and bring hope to hungry people around the world. In November of 2010 Yank received the Gusi Peace Prize for Social Services, Philanthropy and International Humanitarianism in Manila, The Philippines. Yank was also named Philanthropist of the Year at the GLA 2011 Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. This award was presented by The Leaders Magazine and the American Leadership Development Association. The most recent acknowledgement of Yank's humanitarian efforts is his nomination for the 2012 & 2013 Nobel Peace Prize. These awards are a byproduct of Mr. Barry sharing his good fortune in a tangible way.

Most recently, Yank Barry and the Global Village Champions Foundation along with Evander Holyfield have freed more than 50 Syrian refugees, many of them children who are now beginning new lives in Bulgaria. The

families, who fled Syria, are getting a chance at a fresh start and living. Yank's goal is to provide these refugees with stable living conditions and food.

Working hand-in-hand with local agencies and NGOs, he has helped countless people in their time of need, often traveling to politically unstable areas when very few would lend a helping hand. Yank's goal is to have delivered 1 billion meals by Dec. 31, 2013.

#### RURAL AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, it has been said that there is nothing that is wrong in America that can't be fixed by what is right in America.

Clearly, there are very significant difficulties in this body. There is turmoil in our health care system. The paralysis in Washington, a sluggish economy, and a fractured culture all lend themselves to a search for deeper ideals and for something to cling to.

Mr. Speaker, we are quite fortunate where I live in Nebraska to maintain a strong tradition and connection to the past, which gives guidance for the time in which we live. But we don't often reflect upon our strength. In the final analysis, it really is our land, it is our people, and it is our values.

Recently, in the heart of America's farm country, I had the pleasure of speaking with very attentive and engaged high school students eager to discuss the issues before our Nation. We discussed the proud history of our country, the Declaration of Independence, the ties that continue to define us as a Nation, and the debates that will define us as to where we go as a country.

Mr. Speaker, an essential part of regaining our balance as a Nation is to understand, celebrate, and enhance America's rural heritage. As Americans are more and more removed from farm life, we don't think about the contribution rural life makes to the country as a whole.

Production agriculture remains a key strength of America's economy. Exciting new opportunities are emerging. Expanding domestic food markets such as those for natural and organic foods grown within local food systems provides new opportunities for young and beginning farmers. There is also a new bio-based economy that converts, for instance, corncocks to pop bottles and livestock waste to electricity, while bringing about a new kind of American manufacturing based upon the resources of rural communities.

Another notable point is this, Mr. Speaker: young men and women from rural areas of America serve in the military in much more significant numbers.

Farm policy has an important role in growing new opportunities in rural America. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a farm bill. The arduous process of rec-

onciling House and Senate versions of the farm legislation is now taking place.

It is important for all Americans to understand that the farm bill is not just about farms or food; but it is also a jobs bill, a trade bill, an energy bill, a conservation bill, and even a national security bill. One out of every 12 jobs in the United States is related to agriculture.

In the House version of the bill, I strongly support initiatives that help beginning farmers and ranchers start their agriculture operations. I support initiatives to promote the development of local food markets, tighten payment limitations, and enact reasonable reforms to the SNAP program while also protecting those with food security needs. I am hopeful that the final bill written will retain the important reforms that actually help save taxpayer money and ensure farmers receive important risk management tools.

Mr. Speaker, a recent University of Nebraska survey showed that a majority of students desire to move home to their rural hometowns, given the right opportunity to provide for themselves and raise a family. In recent years, our State, through hard work, personal responsibility, and responsible governance, has distinguished itself as an ideal place to live, work, and to raise a family. More than any one piece of legislation, these are the deeper values that we need to nurture and protect.

Those of us in farm country have a great story to tell. We have the resources and sensible stewardship to use them responsibly. We have a great tradition of values that keeps us tethered to an honorable past, which also serves as a guide for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I believe this will help America find her way.

#### PUERTO RICO'S TERRITORY STATUS IS THE PRIMARY CAUSE OF ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. PIERLUISI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, over the last several months, the press has been filled with stories about the severe economic problems in the U.S. territory of Puerto Rico. These economic problems have aggravated social problems like crime, have generated anxiety for individuals and institutions that have invested in Puerto Rico's bonds, and have caused island residents to relocate to the 50 States in unprecedented numbers.

The statistics are staggering. In recent years, Puerto Rico's population has fallen by more than 4 percent, while the number of Puerto Ricans living in the States has increased by over 45 percent.